

‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. And all people will see God’s salvation’ (Luke 3:4-6)

Have you ever wanted to flatten a mountain? Or make a windy path straight? It definitely would save the effort and energy.

When I first climbed Victoria Road it seemed like a mountain, it twisted and turned and kept going up, but it was worth it to get to the beach. I understand why some people in previous decades would use the tunnels to get from Boundary Road to the sea. They avoided the ‘mountain’ of Victoria Road.

Life can be full of physical and spiritual mountains, things that get in the way of us seeing the truth of Jesus and seeing his promises fulfilled in our lives. Whether that be the busyness of our job or a health issue, or something in our past that is holding us back?

In these words that Luke quotes from the prophet Isaiah, there is a promise that mountains will be made low and all people will see God’s salvation.

Jesus came to fulfil these promises to show us God’s love - to remove the mountains and twisting paths that keep us from seeing Him - to make a direct way of knowing and receiving God’s love.

Just as I knew that I would see the sea, as we go through the mountains and twists and turns of life, let’s keep reminding ourselves of Jesus and his saving power in our lives.

Claire Coleman

This Sunday is a Communion Service: **[Livestream Sunday 5th December, 11am](#)**

Click the above link to access the livestream for Sunday’s service. You can also use the link to watch the service at a later time.

Weekly Calendar

Friday 3rd

Play and Praise (at St. Luke's Church) - 10:00-11:30am

Christmas Unwrapped (St. Luke’s Church) - 10:30am-12pm

Saturday 4th

Churches Together in Ramsgate, Prayer Breakfast

(The Corner, 60 Whitehall Rd, Ramsgate CT12 6DF) - 9:00-10:00am

Sunday 5th

Holy Communion (St. Luke's Church), Luke 3:1-6 – **John the Baptist**
- 11:00am-12:00pm

Youth Meeting (198, Margate Road), for 11-18 year olds - 5:00-6:00pm

Monday 6th

Daily Prayer (St. Luke's Church) - 9:30-10:00am

Tuesday 7th

Daily Prayer (at St. George's Church) - 9:30-10:00am

Christmas Unwrapped (St. Luke's Church) - 10:30am-12pm

Thursday 9th

Daily Prayer (at St. Luke's Church) - 9:30-10:00am

Cafe4All (St. Luke's Church), Coffee and Chat for all - 10:00-11:30am.

Friday 10th

Play and Praise (at St. Luke's Church) - 10:00-11:30am

Christmas Unwrapped (St. Luke's Church) - 10:30am-12pm

Saturday 11th

Daily Prayer (at St. George's Church) - 9:30-10:00am

Cantate Concert in Church, 7pm.

Sunday 12th

Family Service (St. Luke's Church), Luke 3:7-18 – **John's Preaching**
- 11:00am-12:00pm

Youth Led Service (St. Luke's Church), for 11-18 year olds - 5:00-6:00pm

Prayer Requests

Be assured I will do my best to check that people are happy for the requests to be shared before including them. Please pray for...

- All the children who heard the Christmas good news at Christmas Unwrapped, that they will want to find out more.
- The Youth Led service next Sunday (12th), that it will be a big encouragement to the young people leading and all that attend.
- Norah and family after her daughter Katrina passed away on Tuesday.
- Lyn Danino thank you that she is back home and doesn't need any surgery, but pray she makes a good recovery.
- Give thanks that Jean Mayton has been able to return home.
- David Gill for a good recovery after having a stent put in his heart.
- John Galer recovering from a stroke on holiday. Pray for continuing recovery and also that all the patients in the hospital test negative for Covid, so that Nicky can visit him again soon.
- Ken Tipler that the pain caused by his bone cancer can be kept under control.

Please also continue to pray for: Flo Baldock, Nathan Court, Pauline Emptage, Shirley Crabb, Collette Judge, Barb (Gloria's daughter's friend), Jean Simmons, Rita Ryan and Joy Smithers.

Christmas Unwrapped - Thank You

Thank you to all those who prayed and helped with Christmas Unwrapped this week. So far it has been a great success, with around 60 children on Tuesday and another 30 joining us on Friday.

Unfortunately, in light of the increased concerns about Covid, one school decided not to come to church, but they are still able to do it using an online video and booklets delivered to their school.

Cantate Concert, Saturday 11th, 7pm – Help with Refreshments

We hope that we can offer a really good welcome to people for the concert on 11th December at St. Luke's. If anyone would like to volunteer to provide refreshments that would be fantastic. Please let me know as soon as possible. Also, why not encourage others to come along or advertise the event on Facebook? Link to use: [Cantate Christmas Concert - St. Luke's, Ramsgate \(stlukestramsgate.org\)](https://www.facebook.com/stlukestramsgate).

Youth Led Service, Sunday 12th February, 5:00-6:00pm

As part of our exploring and shaping the future of our youth ministry, a small group of our youth have been meeting together over the last three weeks in my house. We have been getting to know each other and having times of worship and teaching focussed on the planning of a youth-led service. It is not a youth service but **a service for all ages** that will be led and organised by our youth. The title will be 'Are you prepared?' It is an exciting chance to gather together to worship and ponder this theme. So all are welcome on **Sunday 12th December 5-6pm, at St. Luke's church** with a chance for some refreshments following the service.

Claire Coleman

Christmas Services - Mince Pies

We love to offer mince pies at our Christmas Services and we rely on donations from members of the congregation to make that possible. With that in mind we would be grateful for donations of mince pies. It would help to have some brought along on 12th December so we have them ready for the following weekend, but more offerings on 19th ready for the Christmas weekend would also be welcomed!

Community Pastors

Interested in finding out about Community Pastors? Then join them for an evening of celebration at Global Generation Church (CT9 4JJ) on Friday 10th December at 7:30pm.

Links to Share:

Last Sunday's Sermon:

Last Sunday's Sermon is available on YouTube, as a Podcast or a transcript:

[Advent Attitude \(Luke 21:25-36\)](#)

The church in the West seems shaken by the current Pandemic. Why is that? Have we failed to take Jesus's words about the future seriously? Are we too invested in the present world order and not enough in the eternal Kingdom of God?

What is happening to the church nationally, because of Covid?

This is a recent survey of church leaders and church members by the Evangelical Alliance to try and build a picture of what is going on in the church in terms of attendance and commitment up and down the country:

[Changing Church – Autumn 2021 Report](#)

How do people see the Church of England?

This is a podcast from the Church Times containing an interview with Stephen Hance who has recently written a short booklet on people's perceptions of the Church of England:

[Seeing ourselves as others see us](#)

Finally, let's remember that God has opened an amazing way for us to connect with him through Jesus Christ,

Yours in Christ,

Paul Worledge
(Vicar, St. Luke's Ramsgate)